

Free Media In Unfree Societies

Just the Facts

Budget: \$90.2 million (FY2009)

• Staff: 500 plus over 750 freelancers

• Languages: 28

Albanian (to Kosovo) Bosnian Kazakh Russian Arabic Chechen Serbian Kyrgyz Circassian Tajik Armenian Macedonian Crimean Tatar Avar Montenegrin Tatar Turkmen Azerbaijani Croatian (w/i S.Slavic regional program) Pashto Bashkir Dari Persian Ukrainian Belarusian Georgian Romanian (to Moldova) Uzbek

Audience: 17.6 million total weekly (FY2009)

RFE/RL is an independent, international news and broadcast organization to Eastern and Southeastern Europe, Russia, the Caucasus, the Middle East, and Central and Southwest Asia.

RFE/RL provides news, information, and responsible discussion of domestic and international issues to countries where free and independent media are not permitted, or not yet fully established.

Listeners and readers in 20 countries including Russia, Iran, Afghanistan, and Iraq rely on RFE/RL's daily programming – radio, Internet, and television – for a balanced and reliable account of events in their region and the world.

Strategy/Operations

Based on the conviction that the first requirement of democracy is a well-informed citizenry, and building on nearly sixty years of experience in surrogate broadcasting, RFE/RL aims to empower people in their struggle against autocratic institutions, violations of human rights, centralized economies, ethnic and religious hostilities, regional conflicts, and controlled media.

- o RFE/RL operates one of the most comprehensive news operations in the world, with 19 bureaus throughout Europe and the former Soviet Union reporting local news and current affairs.
- o RFE/RL broadcasts approximately 1,000 hours of programming a week from its broadcast center in Prague, the Czech Republic.
- o RFE/RL programs can be heard on shortwave and satellite frequencies by listeners across the entire broadcast region. RFE/RL has also built a network of nearly 250 affiliate partner organizations that re-broadcast AM, FM, UkW and cable radio and television programming across 11 time zones.
- Political circumstances do not currently permit local rebroadcasting in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Iran, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Management/Oversight

Dr. Jeffrey Gedmin was named President of RFE/RL, Inc. on February 2, 2007. Immediately prior to his appointment, Dr. Gedmin had served since November 2001 as Director of the Aspen Institute Berlin. Previously, Dr. Gedmin was a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, where he also served as Executive Director of the New Atlantic Initiative.

RFE/RL, Inc. is a private, nonprofit corporation chartered in Delaware and headquartered in Washington, D.C., which receives federal funding as a private, nonprofit grantee. RFE/RL's corporate board of directors is composed of nine presidential appointees to the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which has oversight responsibility for all nonmilitary U.S. government-funded international broadcasting activities.